a Bill which I am taking up, Mr. Baby.

SHRI M. A. BABY: This is a motion for sending it to a Joint Committee ...(*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let this be over Then we can go to another Bill.

Then you can raise any matter that concerns you. I am happy that one gentleman, though he is a Baby, is taking up this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

I know babies are now going to take care of their mothers who are going to take care of them.

THE BROADCASTING BILL, 1997

Motion for Reference of Bill to Joint Committee

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Madam, I move the following Motion:—

> "That this House concurs in the recommendations of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the Joint Committee of the House on the Bill to provide for the establishment of an independent authority to be known as the Broadcasting Authority of India, for the purposes of facilitating and regulating broadcasting services in India and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and resolves that the following ten Members of the Rajya Sabha:—
>
> 1. Shri V. N. Gadgil
> 2. Shri Janardhana Poojary
> 3. Dr. Shrikant Ramchandra Jichkar
> 4. Shri K. R. Malkani
> 5. Dr. Mahesh Chandra Sharma
> 6. Shri Md. Salim
> 7. Shri Raj Babbar
> 8. Shri G. Swaminathan
> 9. Shri Wasim Ahmad
> 10. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta
>
> be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee."

The question was put and the motion was adopted

THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S PENSION BILL, 1996—(Contd.)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Another thing is that when Mr. Mohammad Maqbool Dar came to the House earlier in relation to the Vice-President's Pension Bill, there were some very strong objections from the Members of this House. Mr. Mohammad Maqbool Dar then said that he would come back to the House and report on that.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): Madam, The Minister reported to me the feelings of the House, which I share, and I accept the amendments. But I am now facing one technical difficulty, is that difficulty is that this Money Bill has to be approved by the other House also. The Other House has already passed it.

If my colleagues agree, let this Bill go through. I will come back with another Bill with all modifications and amendments on the lines suggested here, which I accept in principle. But it is for the House to decide on what is to be done.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, I could not move my amendments, though I had sent them. I think all those amendments will be taken into consideration. It is otherwise a very badly drafted Bill.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: If you don't pass it, the whole thing will collapse.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prime Minister, such a Bill should collapse. Whoever has drafted this Bill and has gone through it, has never gone through it seriously. It is perhaps because the Bill concerns the Chairman of the

Rajya Sabha; it does not concern the Lok Sabha. I do not know. But, it is very badly drafted, ill-conceived without any imagination. Even if we do not give our concurrence to it, after fourteen days it will become an Act. Now, you will have to take care of it. Because it is a Money Bill, there are certain technical problems about it. So, please take care of it.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I am agreeable in both the ways. If this august House feels, let the Bill collapse, I have no objection. If this House feels, let it go through, I am in your hands.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan): Madam, Deputy Chairperson, I respect the sentiments of the hon. Prime Minister. In the morning I opposed the consideration of this Bill mainly on the ground that the residence provided to the Hon. Vice-President, who also happens to be the hon. Chairman of this House, is equivalent to that of a Union Deputy Minister. It looks ridiculous. Secondly, the office expenses worth Rs. 500/- per month also look ridiculous. Thirdly, you have provided the same facility for 'his' spouse. Supposing some lady becomes the Vice-President of India, as the chances seem to be, then what happens? Why 'his' spouse only? Either the word should be 'the' spouse or 'his or her' spouse. So, there are drafting problems also.

Similarly, in Clause 3, I have raised objection with regard to pension to his widow, if the Vice-President dies in harness. In the case of Members of Parliament, their widows also get pension for the rest of the period. In Assemblies also, there is a provision regarding that. On these three counts I had submitted amendments, to which the President's assent had not been received.

Now, hon. Prime Minister, your fear is that this will collapse. It will not. This is a Money Bill. Even if we do not concur, it will be enacted after the expiry of 14 days. But, I say, the whole House was one in registering our protest, including yours as a Member of this House in your absence.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I am also accepting the same contention. Whatever has been said here embarrasses me also. Therefore, I do not want to have this type of Bill.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: In view of the solemn assurance given by the Prime Minister, who happens to be a Member of our family here in this House, because this House is so rich that way that we have produced two Prime Ministers during the last eleven months—two Prime Ministers in this House, you just imagine!

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: I would be at ease now to practise family planning.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, what would you like?

THE SATISH AGARWAL: In view of the assurance given by the Prime Minister, I do not want to press my amendments. we agree to abide by his appeal.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Madam, we are prepared to accept the assurance given by the hon. Prime Minister. But, the assurance should also be implemented within the shortest possible time. He should come before the House with these official amendments. He should come before this House with these officials amendments.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: In the next session, this thing will be down first ..*(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Regarding your amendments, you may send in writing to the government.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam I have already given my amendments. Mr. Satish Agrawal also has given his amendments.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Madam, my amendments have already been circulated.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Your

amendments and my amendments have already been circulated. Why do you say that only your amendments have been circulated?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He should speak for himself. You should speak for yourself. It is a self-service over here.

SHRI M.A. BABY (Kerala): Madam Deputy Chairman, thank you very much for permitting me to raise this issue. I do not want to take much time of the House. Since the Prime Minister is here, I hope he will react to it. Madam, this is with reference to the Women's reservation Bill.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Baby, let me finish this business. I know that you are very keen on women ...*(Interruptions)* Let me deal with the vice-President's Pension bill first and then we can go to the other business.

SHRI M.A. BABY: Madam Deputy Chairman ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The quetsion is:

That the bill to provide for the payment of pension and other facilities to retiring vice-Presidents, as passed by Lok Sabha be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 to 5 were added to the Bill. Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): Madam, I move:

That the Bill be returned.

The question was puit and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: With that assurance from the Prime Minister, the bill is returned.

RE: RESERVATION OF SEATS FOR WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT AND STATE LEGISLATURES

SHRI M.A. BABY (Kerala): Madam Deputy Chairman, first of all I express my sincere thanks for having recognised my keenness in raising this issue and for identifying me. I am sure that all concerned sections in this House will join me in raising this particular issue. We need not dilate upon as to why this reservation needs to be implemented as promised by all major political parties in their election manifestoes. But the point is in spite of all major apolitical parties having a near consensus for ensuring one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha as well as in the State Legislatures they have not introduced the Bill. Though I myself raised this issue on the floor of this House that it should be extended to Rajya Sabha also, they have not given any assurance. But on that particular issue I don't want to get this Bill deferred. They could have considered this aspect also because there was more than reasonable time available with the Government. The United Front Government is going to complete the first year of its governance at the Centre. Madam, what is the actual problem? I fail to understand the reason. Are the national political parties engaged in double speech so far as their commitment to the issue of reservation is concerned? I want to know this. I say the political parties especially the major political parties, collectively as a class, would be subjected to ridicule in this country. If we are going to handle this issue in such a lackadaisical manner, we will be considered as insincere people. So far as the women's reservation is concerned, we just pay lip-service. Therefore, I want the hon. Prime Minister who is present here to give us an assurance. I would not try to read what the Prime Minister is going to say. But I have kept hearing a formulation... that we require further consultations, we want to take political parties into confidence, there is a demand for reservations for OBCs and other